

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
2002

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING  
SYSTEMS FOR THE DISPOSAL AND  
TRACKING OF USED SYRINGES  
PURSUANT TO ACT 292-2001

PREPARED BY:  
STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE DIVISION  
STD/AIDS PREVENTION BRANCH  
November 2001

## **Report to the Legislature**

The 2001 session the Hawaii State Legislature passed HB 646 allowing for the sale of sterile syringes by pharmacies and health care providers and facilities for the purpose of preventing the transmission of diseases (Appendix 1). It was approved by the Governor on June 28, 2001. This bill permits the sale of syringes for this purpose to commence on July 1, 2002.

This report to the legislature responds to three provisions that are part of HB 646. They are as follows:

### ***The Director of Health shall:***

1. Develop and implement a system to dispose of used syringes received from the public.
2. Develop and implement a system to track syringes purchased in accordance with this ACT that are exchanged for new syringes under the state needle exchange program: and
3. Submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2002 a report on the status of implementing the disposal and tracking systems.

### **The Process of Developing this Report to the Legislature:**

To develop a comprehensive response to the legislature the Department consulted with a wide range of individuals and agencies who were invited to participate in discussions and some of which may provide on going collaborative services. A full list of participants in the process is found in Appendix 2. The Department expresses its appreciation to the participants for the time, effort and evident enthusiasm that they put into the process. Additional information and materials were provided by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Academy for Educational Development (a CDC contractor working on syringe access issues), and the health departments of a number of states that have syringe access programs already in operation, which are similar to those permitted under HB 646,

#### ***1. Develop and implement a system to dispose of used syringes received from the public***

Hawaii has the major components of its system to dispose of used syringes already in place and in operation. However, the Department, with its community partners has made arrangements to augment this existing system with additional community disposal sites in response to HB 646. To ensure appropriate oversight of the disposal system the Department has specified the existing Syringe Exchange Oversight Committee to take on this role. This committee is appointed by and reports to the Director of Health. It will provide ongoing oversight regarding pharmacy sales of syringes and collection and disposal of used syringes. The Department has three components to its system to dispose of collected syringes.

## 1. Safe Disposal Through the State Syringe Exchange Program

Many injection drug users will dispose of used syringes purchased from pharmacies or health providers through exchange with the CHOW Project syringe exchange program. This is not new. Over the years clients have exchanged pharmacy as well as program syringes with the syringe exchange program to obtain new, sterile syringes. But, partly because it has been illegal to purchase syringes, the numbers have been relatively small. “The 2000 Evaluation Report of the Syringe Exchange Program” indicates that approximately 8,000 non program syringes were exchanged in the 1999 program year, from a total of 211,000 syringes exchanged. To participate in the syringe exchange program clients must have used syringes to exchange on a one-for-one basis for new ones. All injectors are encouraged to use a new syringe for each injection. If clients do not have sufficient syringes they will be encouraged to purchase them from pharmacies. Clients are most likely to be short of new syringes when the services of the CHOW Project are not available when or in the geographic area they are needed by the client. It is expected that for many injectors the CHOW Project will remain the primary source of syringes while pharmacies will be used as a supplemental source. These injectors will most likely include those with the most unstable and chaotic living conditions; the homeless, those multiply diagnosed with mental illness, the poor and unemployed and those with other serious health conditions.

Safe disposal of syringes through the syringe exchange program is attractive to users because the service is free, anonymous and provided by caring staff. In addition, the exchange program provides referral to other needed public health and social services including drug treatment. Because the CHOW project services are provided through mobile vans that are situated near where the clients are located, the services tend to be relatively accessible.

The educational materials developed by the Department, which will be made available to purchasers of syringes in pharmacies, encourage injectors of illegal drugs to make use of the CHOW Project as one of the resources for safe disposal and other services (see Appendix 3). The report on provisions #2 of the bill which details how the CHOW Project will track the exchange of used pharmacy syringes in keeping with the second provision of HB 646 is located on below on pages 4-5.

## II. Safe Home Disposal Following National, State and Local Guidelines

The Department recommends and supports a system of safe collection and disposal of all syringes from all users that is in keeping with (follows) the guidelines of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch of the Department of Health, the City and County of Honolulu and the American and Hawaii Diabetes Association among others (see Appendix 4). In Hawaii, a significant volume of syringes and other sharps, used outside of medical facilities, is currently being collected and disposed of safely in keeping with these guidelines. The syringes purchased under HB 646 would be collected and disposed of in the same manner consistent with that of other syringe users.

The guidelines recommend the following:

1. Place used syringes in a purchased sharps container or an unbreakable plastic bottle such as a 2 liter soda bottle or detergent bottle.
2. Mark the bottle “biohazard” or “not recyclable”
3. If possible, add one part bleach to 10 parts water and let soak for 20 minutes
4. Drain, replace cap and secure top with tape
5. Dispose of the container with your household trash.

In Hawaii, non recyclable household trash is currently safely disposed of through incineration or in land fills.

The Department expects that this safe home disposal option will be most appropriately used by individuals who will not use the syringe exchange program because they are particularly concerned with their confidentiality. Many of these individuals may have more stable lives and have jobs, homes and families. This stability will allow them to collect, store and dispose of syringes in a safe manner.

It is important that all individuals using syringes and sharps, regardless of purpose, whether injecting medications, vitamins or illegal drugs, know about and practice safe disposal. The syringes used to inject for either legal or illegal purposes that are not properly disposed of can potentially cause transmission of blood borne disease. For this reason the educational materials developed by the Department, which will be made available in pharmacies, support the same safe disposal practices by all syringe users. The safe disposal message is consistent for all injectors.

This collection and disposal system following these Hawaii guidelines is basically the same as the systems implemented in other states that have instituted pharmacy sales of sterile syringes. Minnesota, Connecticut, Maine and Illinois among others all support safe disposal of used syringes using purchased or home made sharps containers with biohazard marking and placement with household waste (Appendix 5). Public health staff in Connecticut, the state most similar to Hawaii, with both a syringe exchange program and pharmacy sales for more than ten years, has shared their experience with Hawaii. In the initial years of the program the Connecticut Health Department set aside funds to contract with community based organizations to deal with syringe collection and disposal issues. The contracts were never put in place as no problem arose. Syringe users safely and appropriately disposed of their syringes. Other states with more recent pharmacy syringe sales programs have supported the same guidelines that are in place in Hawaii and have not encountered syringe disposal problems.

### **III. Safe Disposal At Alternative Community Sites**

Accessibility is a major factor in the use of public health services. In general, if options are provided the clients will likely select and use the services that are most appropriate for them. Alternative disposal options have been developed for individuals who can not or will not make

use of disposal options I or II as described above. In order to provide for additional, accessible disposal sites the Department worked with the Hawaii Primary Care Association to determine the feasibility of the member Community Health Clinics providing syringe disposal sites. A number of clinics, including Waikiki Health Center, Kalihi-Palama Health Center's Health Care for the Homeless Program and possibly other community health centers will provide disposal services, initially to determine the utility and demand. The Department's Diamond Head STD/HIV Clinic will also provide access to a sharps container for individuals to drop off used syringes. The Department does not expect that these alternative community sites will be heavily used but they will provide additional accessibility for safe disposal.

## **Health Department Oversight**

The Department has implemented several mechanisms to monitor and provide oversight of pharmacy syringe sales and disposal. These are outlined below:

1. The Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office of the Department is currently the State agency to call if improperly disposed of syringes or other medical wastes are found. In the rare cases that this happens the HEER staff go to the site and remove the wastes. HEER will maintain records of community calls/complaints regarding improperly disposed of syringes and provide them quarterly to the Syringe Exchange Oversight committee.
2. The Syringe Exchange Oversight Committee (SEOC), currently has oversight responsibilities for the statewide syringe exchange program. The Department will expand its purview to include syringes obtained through pharmacy purchase. The SEOC, which is appointed by the Director of Health, generally includes members from the medical community, the police department, drug treatment, the University of Hawaii, the clergy, the HIV community and the pharmacists association, among others. It meets quarterly and annually it reviews the "Syringe Exchange Program Evaluation Report." It makes annual program recommendations to the Director. The SEOC will also monitor the following: the overall pharmacy sales of syringes in Hawaii from wholesale records, the records of HERR, the exchange of pharmacy syringes with the CHOW project and other community sites and other program information from potential sources such as pharmacists and clients.
2. Develop and implement a system to track syringes purchased in accordance with this ACT that are exchanged for new syringes under the state needle exchange program

It is expected that many syringes purchased under the provisions of HB 646 will be exchanged with the syringe exchange program. The original syringe exchange legislation requires a one-for-one exchange of syringes. It is expected that individuals without syringes to exchange will use these purchased syringes to become part of the syringe exchange program.

The needle exchange program is currently implemented statewide by the CHOW Project under contract with the Department. The CHOW Project is a 501-C-3 community based organization with over 10 years of experience working with the injection drug user population and operating the program. Act 152 in 1992 established the needle exchange program and requires the annual collection and reporting of much demographic and exchange data. Much of this data is collected by the CHOW field workers who obtain the information from their clients and complete daily log books. Workers currently collect data on client demographics, zip code, number of syringes exchanged, types of educational messages given out and referrals to other social services for every exchange visit.

The CHOW Project has been involved with the process of increasing access to sterile syringes through pharmacy sales and the development of HB 646. When the HB 646 goes into effect on July 1, 2002, the CHOW field workers will question exchange clients as to the source of their syringes; whether from the exchange program or purchased. This information will be recorded in the daily log and tabulated for all workers monthly to track the exchange of used pharmacy syringes. This information will be provided to the Department on a quarterly basis as part of the quarterly program report. This data will be monitored quarterly by the Syringe Exchange Oversight Committee as detailed on the previous page.

3. Submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2002 on the status of implementing the disposal and tracking systems.

### **Conclusion:**

The Department shall have fully in place all the safe syringe disposal options, the system to track pharmacy syringes exchanged with the syringe exchange program and the oversight and monitoring procedures as laid out in this report, prior to July 1, 2002, when the first pharmacy sales of syringes will take place.

# LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1	HR 646, 2001
Appendix 2	Development of the Department's Used Syringe Disposal and Track Plan - Participants List
Appendix 3	Safe Syringe Disposal Options (DRAFT)
Appendix 4	Fact Sheet on Proper Disposal of Home Health Care Waste. Hawaii Department of Health
	Disposal Tips for Home Care. City and County of Honolulu
	Disposal Tips for Home Health Care. Federal Environmental Protection Agency

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

JUL 13 2001

RELATING TO THE SALE OF STERILE SYRINGES FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
DISEASE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1       SECTION 1. Chapter 325, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:
- 4       "§325-     Sale of sterile syringes for the prevention of  
5 disease. (a) The sale of sterile hypodermic syringes in a  
6 pharmacy, physician's office, or health care institution for the  
7 purpose of preventing the transmission of dangerous blood-borne  
8 diseases, may be made solely by:
- 9       (1) A pharmacist licensed under chapter 461;  
10       (2) A physician as defined in section 327E-2;  
11       (3) A health care provider as defined in section 327E-2;  
12       or  
13       (4) An authorized agent of a pharmacy, as defined in  
14       section 461-1, or of a health care institution, as  
15       defined in section 327E-2, operating under the  
16       direction of a licensed pharmacist or physician.



1       (b) The seller under subsection (a) shall provide the  
2       purchaser written educational material approved by the  
3       department of health under subsection (e) about prevention of  
4       blood-borne diseases, drug treatment, and safe disposal of used  
5       syringes at sites where syringes are sold.

6       (c) The sale or purchase of sterile hypodermic syringes  
7       under subsection (a) shall not constitute an offense under  
8       section 329-43.5.

9       (d) Nothing in this section provides immunity from  
10       prosecution to any person who violates any law that prohibits or  
11       regulates the use, possession, dispensing, distribution, or  
12       promotion of controlled substances, dangerous drugs, detrimental  
13       drugs, or harmful drugs, including but not limited to violation  
14       of section 329-41, 329-42, or 712-1241 to 712-1249.6.

15       (e) The department of health shall produce and make  
16       available to pharmacies, physicians' offices, and health care  
17       institutions written educational material about prevention of  
18       blood-borne diseases, drug treatment, and safe disposal of used  
19       syringes for distribution under subsection (b).

20       (f) For purposes of this section, "sell" or "sale" means  
21       to transfer to another for value or consideration."

1 SECTION 2. The director of health shall:

2 (1) Develop and implement a system to dispose of used  
3 syringes received from the public;

4 (2) Develop and implement a system to track syringes  
5 purchased in accordance with this Act that are  
6 exchanged for new syringes under the state needle  
7 exchange program; and

8 (3) Submit a report to the legislature no later than  
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
10 session of 2002 on the status of implementing the  
11 disposal and tracking systems.

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
14 provided that section 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2002, and  
15 shall be repealed on July 1, 2004.

APPROVED BY THE  
GOVERNOR ON

JUN 28 2001



## Appendix 2

### Development of the Department's Used Syringe Disposal and Tracking Plan

#### Participants List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Suzette Smetka	Executive Director, The CHOW Project
Nancy Partika	Governor's Committee on HIV/AIDS
Todd Inafuku	Executive Director, Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Beth Geesting	Executive Director, Hawaii Primary Care Association
Lori Miller	Executive Director, AIDS Community Care Team
Tom Driskill	CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Venie Lee	President, Hawaii Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.
Sue Slavish	Infection Control Coordinator, Queens Hospital
Laverne Fuller	Manager, Queen Emma Clinic
Steven Chang	Chief, Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch, DOH.
Roy Ohye	Program Coordinator, Diamond Head STD/HIV Clinic
Jon Berliner	Executive Director, Maui AIDS Foundation
Pam Lichty	Chair, Syringe Exchange Oversight Committee



## Need more info?

### Syringe Exchange Program The CHOW Project

A statewide anonymous program, servicing those who inject illegal drugs, which offers comprehensive services including syringe exchange, drug treatment assistance, and referrals for medical services.

O'ahu 848-2469

Neighbor Islands 1-800-457-0888

### Drug Treatment

Contact the CHOW Project above.

### STD/HIV Counseling and Testing and Hepatitis A and B Vaccination— Department of Health

O'ahu 733-9281

Maui 984-2129

East Hawaii 974-4247

West Hawaii 322-9705

Kauai 241-3387

Molokai 553-3145

Lanai 565-6411

Appendix 3

DRAFT

## Safe Syringe Disposal Options

State of Hawai'i



The information provided in this brochure is a compilation of established guidelines gathered from major national and state organizations such as the American Diabetes Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, and various other United States health departments.



### STD/AIDS PREVENTION BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

3627 Kilauea Avenue, Room 304

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

(808) 733-9010

[www.state.hi.us/health/ehi/shwb/sw](http://www.state.hi.us/health/ehi/shwb/sw)

STD/AIDS PREVENTION  
BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## Dispose of Syringes and Needles Safely

If you use syringes for diabetes, allergies, other medical conditions, or to inject illegal drugs, properly dispose of them in order to reduce your risk for disease and help protect others. Following are some ways to dispose of used syringes and needles safely:

- If you use needles to inject illegal drugs, exchange them for sterile ones at the CHOW Project, Syringe Exchange Program (see back panel for contact information);
- Ask your medical provider if they will dispose of used syringes and needles for you;
- Community health centers may offer syringe disposal (contact the CHOW Project for the list of centers);
- Purchase a sharps container at a pharmacy for personal disposal; or
- Put used syringes and needles in a plastic bottle, such as a two-liter soda bottle or a laundry detergent bottle. The bottle should be unbreakable and puncture-resistant and should be clearly labeled



**"BIOHAZARD"** and **"NOT RECYCLABLE."**

- If possible, once the plastic bottle or sharps container is nearly full and prior to disposal, fill the container with one part bleach to ten parts water and let soak for 20 minutes. Drain, replace the cap, and secure with tape.



- Dispose of the plastic bottle or sharps container with your household trash.
- Don't put a plastic bottle or sharps container filled with used syringes out with the recyclable plastics.

## How to Stay Healthy

Sharing needles, syringes, or injecting equipment, and improper disposal of these items, put people at risk for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, other serious infections, sores, and heart infections. The following tips are ways you can reduce your risk for disease and help protect others:

- **Always** use a new and sterile syringe and needle every time you inject;
- **Never** share needles, syringes, cookers, cottons, or water;
- **Clean injection site** with soapy water before injecting; and
- **Avoid** injecting into the same spot over and over again.

## Protecting Yourself and Others

There are three main things that you can do to protect yourself:

1. **Exchange your needles if you inject illegal drugs.** The CHOW Project, Syringe Exchange Program, provides injectors of illegal drugs across the state with new, sterile syringes in exchange for used ones. Clients can also receive HIV testing, help with entering drug treatment, and referrals to medical care. *All services are anonymous!*
2. **Seek help with substance use.** Drug treatment can help you manage your substance use in a more healthy way or help you stop using drugs completely.
3. **Learn your status.** Get tested for HIV and hepatitis C and ask for a hepatitis B vaccination. If you're not infected, you can stay that way. If you are infected, you can learn how to take care of yourself, avoid passing the infection(s) to others, and get help telling your partners.



---

# FACT SHEET

---

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF HOME HEALTH CARE WASTE

### What Are Home Health Care Wastes?

The types of wastes normally encountered when administering home health care include needles, syringes, lancets, other sharp objects, soiled bandages, gauze, disposable sheets, tubings and used medical gloves.



### Problems from Improper Disposal

The improper disposal of contaminated sharps is a serious safety concern for garbage collectors and landfill workers. If improperly thrown in trash bags along with regular trash, these sharps can puncture the bags and cause injury.

### Disposal of Home Health Care Wastes

Prevent injury, illness and pollution by following these simple steps to dispose of sharp needles and contaminated materials used when administering home health care.

Place needles, syringes, lancets and other contaminated sharps in any strong, leak proof plastic containers, such as empty bleach, laundry detergent or dish soap containers. The container should have a small opening so that no one else is able to stick their hand into it.

The container must also be clearly marked, "BIOHAZARD." Used needles and other contaminated sharps are NOT recyclable. Keep the sharps container separate from other materials that you set aside for recycling.

You do not have to recap, purposely bend, break, or otherwise manipulate needles before inserting them into the disposal container. Drop all parts into the container.

Sharps should be sterilized or be chemically disinfected prior to disposal. Once your container is full, fill the container with one part bleach solution and ten parts of water. Allow solution to soak for twenty minutes. Then, pour the solution into the sink and seal the cap with tape before placing the disposal container into the garbage. Use heavy duty tape. Be sure to keep all containers with discarded sharps out of reach of children and pets.

We recommend you place any soiled bandages, disposable sheets and medical gloves separately in securely fastened plastic bags before placing them along with your other trash.



For more information, contact the Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management, 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 212, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. Phone: (808) 586-4240. Fax: (808) 586-7509.

## Disposal Tips for Home Health Care



You can help prevent worker injury by following some simple steps when you dispose of sharp objects and medically contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home. You should place:

- ☞ Needles
- ☞ Syringes
- ☞ Lancets
- ☞ Utility blades and
- ☞ Other sharp objects

IN A HARD-PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH A SCREW-ON OR TIGHTLY SECURED LID BEFORE YOU PUT THEM IN THE RUBBISH CAN WITH YOUR OTHER TRASH

*Any hard plastic container is acceptable, but you need to secure the lid with heavy-duty tape. Do not use glass containers.*



We also recommend that:

- ☞ Soiled bandages
- ☞ Disposable sheets and
- ☞ Medical gloves

BE PLACED IN SECURLY FASTENED PLASTIC BAGS BEFORE YOU PUT THEM IN THE RUBBISH CAN WITH YOUR OTHER TRASH.



DIVISION OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DR. KENNETH E. SPRAGUE, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
JEREMY HARRIS, MAYOR



## Preventing Injury and Pollution

### Containers with sharps are not recyclable

EPA promotes all recycling activities, and therefore encourages you to discard medical waste sharps in sturdy, nonrecyclable containers, when possible. If a recyclable container is used to dispose of medical waste sharps, make sure that you don't mix the container with other materials to be recycled. Since the sharps impair a container's recyclability, a container holding your medical waste sharps properly belongs with the regular household trash. You may even want to label the container, "NOT FOR RECYCLING." These steps go a long way toward protecting workers and others from possible injury. (Although disposing of recyclable containers removes them from the recycling stream, the expected impact is minimal.)

### Local Programs

Your state or community environmental programs may have other requirements or suggestions for disposing of your medical waste. You should contact them for any information you may need.



For additional copies of these disposal tips, please call the RCRA Hotline Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST. The national toll-free number is (800) 424-9346; for the hearing impaired, it is TDD (800) 553-7672.

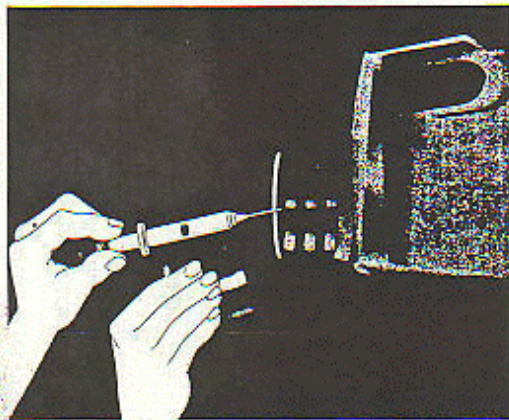


Recycled/Recyclable  
Printed with SoyCanada ink on paper that  
contains at least 50% recycled fiber



**REMEMBER: Used "Sharps"  
Are Medical Waste!**

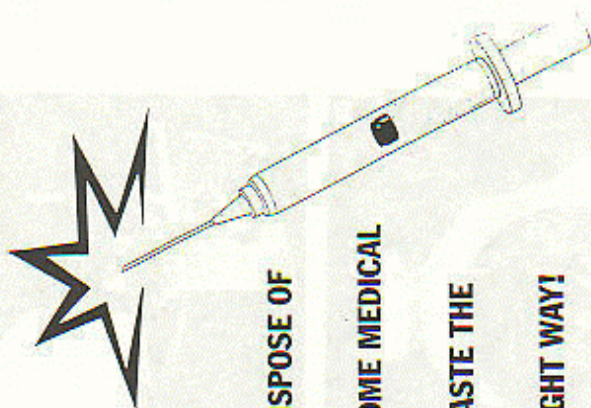
Once you use your syringe, needle, lancet or other "sharp," it becomes a potentially hazardous medical waste product. That's why it's important to dispose of sharps the right way. Always use appropriate containers. And remember: *sharps and recycling don't mix.*



American Diabetes Association.  
1660 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Appendix 4

# think! sharp!



**DISPOSE OF**

**HOME MEDICAL**

**WASTE THE**

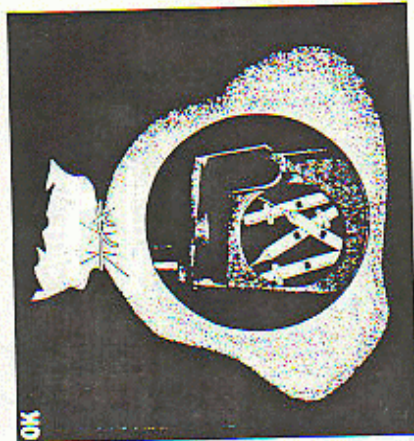
**RIGHT WAY!**

**American  
Diabetes  
Association.**



## Dispose of Sharps the Right Way

Place your needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects in puncture-proof, hard plastic containers you can't see through. Or use metal containers with lids reinforced with tape. Lids that screw on tightly are best. Then place the sealed container with your trash — *never* in a recycling bin.



## The Dangers of Improper Disposal

Improperly discarded medical waste can

- Injure trash haulers.
- Contaminate and jeopardize recycling programs.
- Be reused and shared by drug abusers, possibly spreading disease.

### Sharps Disposal Tips

1. Reinforce soft plastic lids (such as coffee can lids) with heavy-duty tape.
2. Never use aluminum cans to dispose of sharps.



3. Do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Glass breaks. Drug abusers can see needles through clear plastic.
4. Never clip needles with scissors (the points can fly off and be lost) unless using a device that holds onto the needle.

## Sharps and Recycling Don't Mix

Syringes, needles, lancets and other sharp health care products — and the containers used to hold them — should *never* be recycled. They may be contaminated, posing a danger to recycling workers. And they can cause major problems in the recycling process. Medical waste and disposal containers should *always* be separated from recyclable items. Your local waste hauler may be able to provide you with special "Do Not Recycle" stickers.

### Check Your Local Regulations

Your community may have its own medical waste disposal guidelines. Call your local waste hauler or solid waste management department for details.

Also, ask your pharmacist about the availability of Pharmacy Exchange Programs for household medical waste.

### For More Information

The American Diabetes Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and improve the lives of all people with diabetes. For additional information, contact your local American Diabetes Association (listed in the white pages) or call 1-800-232-3472.



American  
Plastics  
Council  
  
This brochure was made  
possible by a grant from  
the American Plastics Council.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

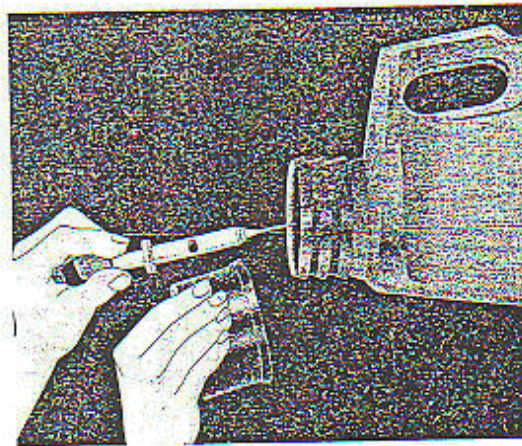
Questions about syringe access locations, disposal, HIV prevention and services, and drug treatment programs, call:

### Minnesota AIDSLine

Metro Area  
(612) 373-AIDS  
(612) 373-2465 TTY

Greater Minnesota  
1-800-248-AIDS  
1-888-820-2437 TTY

# Safe Disposal of Needles and Syringes



This graphic is provided at the courtesy of  
the American Diabetes Association

Printed by the Minnesota Department of Health, 5/98  
RECYCLED PAPER WITH A MINIMUM  
OF 10% POSTCONSUMER WASTE

#141-0370

Minnesota Department of Health

## Safe Disposal Tips At Home

1. Get a hard plastic container that:

- has a lid
- is hard to puncture (clear plastic bottle is best)



Liquid Detergent



Clear Plastic Bottle

2. Container should have lid or cap

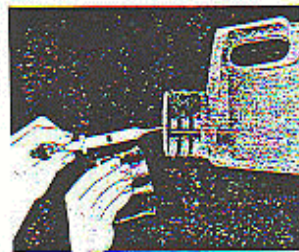
- screw on lids should be used



3. Label a piece of tape on the container "Do Not Recycle: Household Sharps"

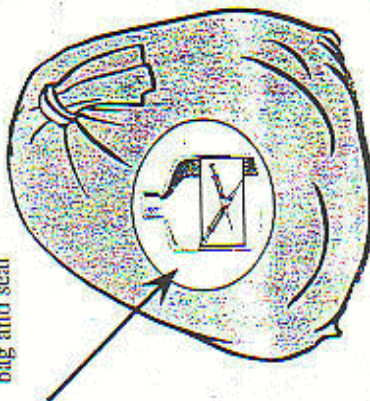
4. Keep container close by when using needles

5. Put used needle or syringe point first into container



- containers can be 1/2 full of needles before disposal
- keep the container out of the reach of children
- keep the cap on container when not putting in needles

6. Place the sealed container in your garbage bag and seal



## Safe Reminders Protect Others

- Never leave needles or syringes on streets, in parks, at pharmacies, or anywhere else. Always place them in hard plastic container with a lid.
- Don't use these containers:
  - aluminum beer or pop cans
  - glass bottles
  - coffee cans or metal cans
- Containers need to be labeled, "Do Not Recycle: Household Sharps." Never place your containers with needles or syringes in a recycling bin.
- Some hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and HIV street outreach programs may dispose of used needles and syringes. Call your nearest facility regarding what type of container is required or call the Minnesota AIDSLine for more information.
- Some pharmacies and sanitation companies sell disposal boxes and kits. Call your nearest facility or Minnesota AIDSLine for more information.
- Learn more about syringe access, needle and syringe disposal, HIV and AIDS prevention and services, and drug treatment programs by calling the:

**Minnesota AIDSLine**  
(612) 373-AIDS  
(612) 373-2465 TTY

**Greater Minnesota**  
1-800-248-AIDS  
1-888-820-2437 TTY

## Appendix 5

## Safe Disposal of Needles and Syringes. Minnesota Department of Health